

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06 DODE-00

ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 PRS-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

/093 W

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R 131530Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7951

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3959

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, DR

SUBJECT: GODR STUDYING ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER TOLD THE PRESS AUGUST 10 THAT THE GODR WAS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT OF APPROXIMATELY 600 MEGAWATTS. CONSIDERING THE DESPERATE STATE OF THE ELECTRIC POWER SITUATION AND THE LACK OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE, THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS MORE A POLITICAL PLOY THAN A SERIOUS PROPOSAL.

2. PUERTO RICAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING FOR SOME TIME TO INTEREST THE GODR IN TAKING OVER A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT OF APPROXIMATELY 600 MW WHICH THE PUERTO RICAN WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY CONTRACTED FOR WESTINGHOUSE. APPARENTLY PUERTO RICAN HAS EXCESS ELECTRICAL CAPACITY AND IS CANCELLING ITS CONTRACT WITH WESTINGHOUSE AT A COST OF \$20 MILLION.

3. A FEW DAYS AGO THE ECONOMIC ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT, FORMER FINANCE SECRETARY CARLOS SELIMAN, TRAVELLED TO PUERTO RICO TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. SUCH A PLANT WOULD COST UPWARDS OF \$300 MILLION AND WOULD TAKE SIX TO EIGHT YEARS TO INSTALL IN THE DR.

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4. IN FULL-PAGE ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE LOCAL PRESS RECENTLY, THE

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE STATE-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY (CDE), JULIO SAURI, OUTLINED HIS PLANS FOR TRYING TO COPE WITH THE ELECTRIC POWER CRISIS AND IN THE PROCESS DENIGRATED THE IDEA OF ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR PLANT.

5. AFTER SELIMAN'S TRIP TO SAN JUAN, SAURI TOLD THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR THAT HE HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE MATTER. SAURI POINTED OUT THAT THE TOTAL GENERATING CAPACITY OF CDE NOW IS ONLY 350 MW AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE AT THIS STAGE EITHER TO ACQUIRE SUCH A LARGE PLANT OR TO PUT SO MUCH RELIANCE ON A SINGLE PLANT.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTO03959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760312-0402
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760855/aaaabvsg.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GODR STUDYING ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, DR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006